

Positive Pathways

A Cooperative Initiative for
NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS)
NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute (DOH)
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
Columbia University

Rationale for Positive Pathways: The Public Health Challenge (I)

~ 52,000 inmates in NYS Correctional Facilities (CFs)



Estimated 2.5% - 3.5% are HIV+ (1,500 – 2,000)

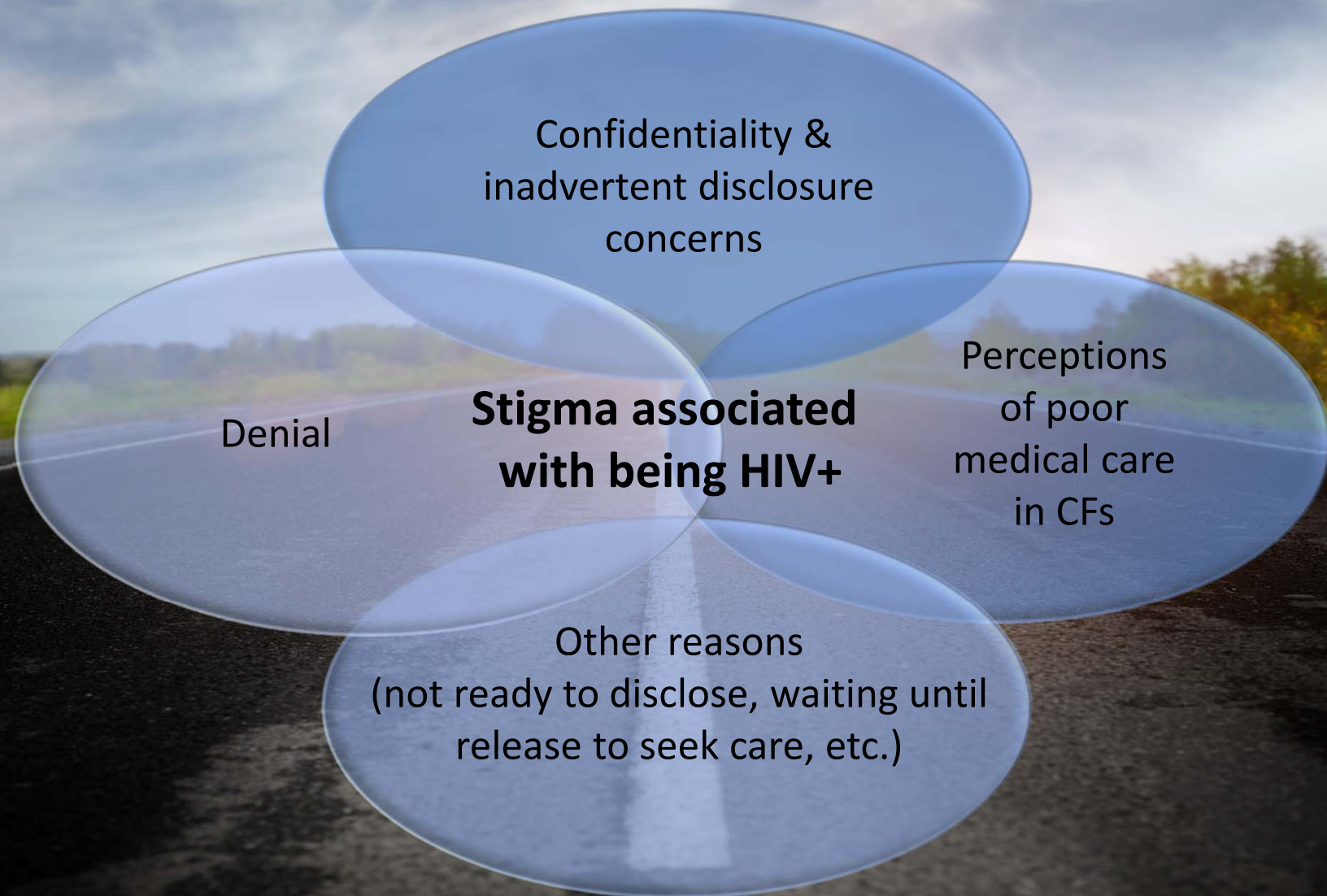


As many as half (50%) of HIV+ inmates are not known to
DOCCS Health Services (H.S.)



Majority of HIV+ inmates unknown to H.S. are personally
aware of their HIV status; choose not to disclose

Reasons for Non-disclosure (identified in focus groups & literature)





HIV in NYS CFs: The Public Health Challenge (II) cont.

Poor inmate health inside CFs (inmates progress to AIDS)

**Higher than necessary HIV transmission risk inside CFs
(high viral load = higher transmission risk)**

**Higher transmission risk to NYS communities as inmates are
released**

Positive Pathways Goals

- Reduce stigma associated with being HIV+ in the correctional setting
- Identify new & existing cases of HIV in DOCCS CFs
- Initiate HIV care & treatment during incarceration
- Ensure linkage to & continuity of HIV care & treatment upon & after release

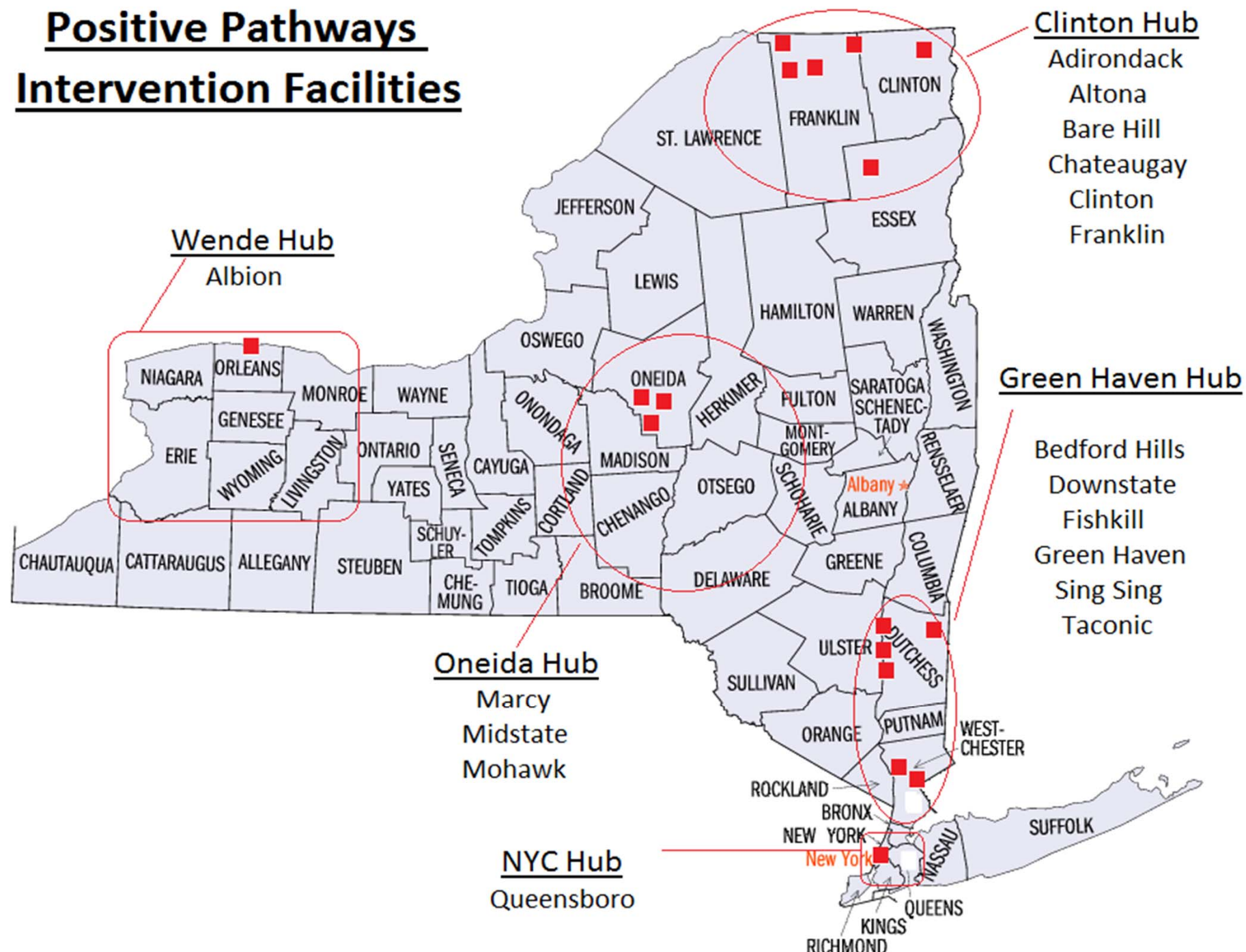
Positive Pathways

CDC Funded Demonstration Project

Duration: 3 years (2012 – 2014); possibility of extension

Award Total: \$931,950/year

Positive Pathways Intervention Facilities



A diagram with a central light blue circle containing the text "Positive Pathways Strategies" in purple. Six dark blue circles are arranged around it, each connected by a thin blue line. The circles contain the following text: "Education of H.S. staff" (top), "Education of Correction Officers (COs)" (top-right), "Education of inmates" (bottom-right), "Evidence-based intervention with inmates" (bottom), "Inmate disclosure and/or test opportunity" (bottom-left), and "Supportive services for 6 months post-release" (top-left). The background is a photograph of a road stretching into the distance under a cloudy sky.

Education of
H.S. staff

Education of
Correction
Officers
(COs)

**Positive
Pathways
Strategies**

Education of
inmates

Evidence-
based
intervention
with inmates

Supportive
services for
6 months
post-release

Inmate
disclosure
and/or test
opportunity

Training for H.S. Staff

Content (55 min. video & facilitated discussion):

- **Role of Health Services staff in Positive Pathways**
- **Strategies to increase confidentiality and avoid inadvertent HIV disclosure**
- **Impact of HIV related stigma on offender willingness to test for HIV, link to medical care for HIV and initiate treatment**

Format:

- **DOCCS Health Services trainers participate in train the trainer workshop**
- **DOCCS Health Services trainers deliver training curriculum to $\geq 95\%$ of Health Services staff**

Activities with H.S. Staff

Train $\geq 95\%$ of H.S. staff

Where we're at:

- 76% (n = 331)
of H.S. staff have been
surveyed & trained

Training for Correction Officers

Content (2 hour training curriculum):

- Emphasize 3 Cs (Care, Custody & Control)
- Address impact of confidentiality, inadvertent disclosure and stigma on 3 Cs, e.g., aforementioned issues can result in altercations between offenders, loss of control, increased risk of occupational exposure to bodily fluids, etc.
- HIV transmission, universal precautions and barriers to offender testing/linking to medical care for HIV

Format:

- DOCCS Security Trainers participate in Training of Trainers workshop
- DOCCS Security Trainers deliver training curriculum to $\geq 80\%$ of Correction Officers



Activities with COs

Train $\geq 80\%$ of COs

Where we're at:

- 95% (n = 5,647) of COs trained 10/01/13 - 12/31/13
- 804 COs completed surveys

Inmate Education (I); Evidence-based Intervention

Pathways Advocates hired by CBOs to provide one on one services to inmates while incarcerated & for 6 months post-release

Pathways Advocates trained to connect HIV + inmates to medical care for HIV

The tools:

- Motivational Interviewing
- Anti-retroviral Treatment & Access to Services (ARTAS)



Inmate Education (II); Video

Content (15 min. video):

- Address concerns about testing, quality of medical care, stigma associated with being HIV+, confidentiality & inadvertent disclosure

Format:

- Informal interviews with formerly incarcerated individuals living with HIV
- Narrated by formerly incarcerated individual
- Subtitled in Spanish

Venue:

- Movie night pre-view
- Waiting room for medical services
- 2nd orientation at permanent facility
- Other venues as appropriate (to be determined by CF)



Posters Inside Correctional Facilities

(Also in Spanish)



Palm Cards Inside Correctional Facilities

(Also in Spanish)

While you are in:

- Talk one on one with a Pathways Advocate about your status
- Get the medical care you need
- Feel better and plan for your future

On your way out:

- Set up a fast and easy HIV test
- Talk about your status with a Pathways Advocate
- Make a plan for services on the outside

On the outside:

- See a doctor and get medicine
- Find a place to live
- Get mental health and substance use treatment services

Protect yourself and your loved ones



Positive Pathways in the Community

Services available in the community include:

- Scheduling 1st HIV primary care appt & accompaniment to all medical appointments;
- phone call reminder before each appointment to ensure that he/she has transportation;
- re-assessment of needs on an ongoing basis and make referrals;
- accompaniment as necessary to nonmedical appointments, e.g., mental health, substance abuse treatment and social services;
- verification of linkage to services (substance use treatment, mental health, etc.);
- coordination with Community Supervision Officer to ensure arrangement for payment of treatment continuation through ADAP/Medicaid; and,
- follow-up with participants lost to medical care.

Indicators of Success (I)

Systematic Testing Prior to Release

March 2013
Advocates begin
to meet with
inmates (within 90
days of release)
who have no hx of
HIV testing on
record w/ DOCCS
to offer HIV test
(n = 1,422)

981 (70%) inmates
were offered an
HIV test with 858
(60%) accepting to
test

1 newly identified
positive to date

DOCCS HIV testing
has increased as a
result of Positive
Pathways

DOCCS has
identified 2 new
positives in 2013

Indicators of Success (II)

Targeted In-reach

June 2013
Advocates begin
to meet with
H.S. staff to
encourage
referrals of HIV+
inmates known
to H.S. but not
on treatment in
intervention
facilities
(n = 40)

3 HIV+ inmates
refused the
referral from
H.S.

21 H.S. referrals
have been made
to Advocates

13 of these
inmates agreed
to participate in
Positive
Pathways

Thus far, 7
inmates initiated
treatment for HIV
during
incarceration

2 others have
begun receiving
HIV treatment in
the community

Indicators of Success (III)

Accessing Informal Networks

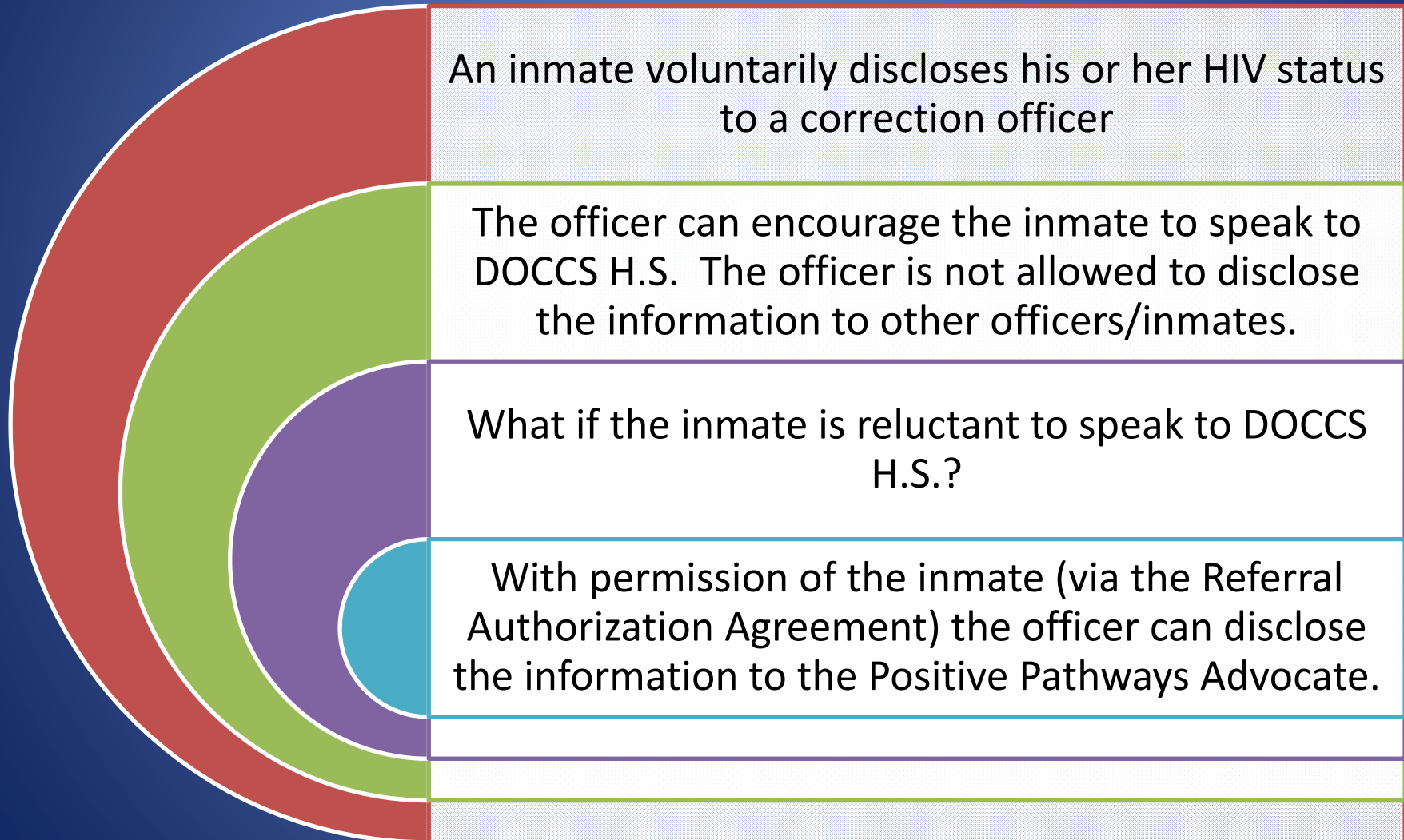
Referrals to
Pathways
Advocates can be
made by anyone
in the facility, e.g.,
counselors, clergy,
education,
volunteer
services, self, etc.

To date 3 HIV+
inmates have
been referred via
informal prison
networks

Of these, 1
decided to
disclose to H.S. &
initiate treatment!

Informal Network Referrals

How it Works....



Form to refer inmate to Positive Pathways Advocate

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROJECT
REFERRAL AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

TO: Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

I, (print name) _____, authorize the following Department of Corrections and Community Supervision staff (Fill in DOCCS staff name/service area) _____ to release the information specified below to the Positive Pathways Advocate, (Fill in Positive Pathways Advocate name) _____.

PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST:

I. I am interested in learning more about the Positive Pathways Project and the services available to me; and,

II. I would like to schedule a meeting with the Positive Pathways Advocate.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE:

I. Name: (print name) _____

II. Detainee Identification Number (DIN): _____

III. Dorm Location: _____

I understand that:

- I do not have to sign this form and that my refusal to sign will not affect the service I get or my ability to get treatment or get Positive Pathways Project services in the future;
- I may cancel this authorization at any time, in writing or by telling the Positive Pathways Advocate;
- Signing this form will result in a call out to schedule a meeting with the Positive Pathways Advocate;
- The Information authorized for release will be given to the Positive Pathways Advocate as often as necessary to fulfill the purpose identified in this document; and,
- My signature or mark is confirmation that this form has been fully explained to me and that I understand its contents.

Potential Positive Pathways Project Participant

Signature _____

Date _____

APPROVED

OCT 03 2012

NYS DOH
Institutional Review Board

Positive Pathways Primary Contacts

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